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SUBJECT: EAPC PLAYS A FULL HOUSE: FIRST MEETING AT 49 ON
JANUARY 10

PREVIEWING THE PRESIDENT'S IRAQ POLICY

1. (SBU) Ambassador Nuland provided the January 10
Ambassadorial Session of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership
Council (EAPC) with a meaty preview of President Bush's
address on the way forward on Iraq, based on an oral briefing
provided by the NSC. EAPC Ambassadors welcomed the gesture
to bring real consultation to the forum and took careful note
of her presentation, no one asked questions.

NEW PARTNERS TAKE THEIR PLACES

2. (SBU) NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and
EAPC representatives welcomed Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH),
Montenegro, and Serbia to the first EAPC Ambassadorial
meeting held "at 49." BiH Ambassador to Brussels Sven
Alkalaj, Montenegrin Head of Mission to the EU Slavic
Milacic, and Serbian Special Envoy to NATO Branislav
Milinkovic each took the floor in response. In his remarks,
Milinkovic acknowledged Serbia's unfulfilled obligations to
arrest and deliver Persons Indicted for War Crimes to the
Hague. Nine Allied and twelve Partner representatives
intervened to welcome the three new Balkan Partners to the
EAPC forum. Norway and Balkans-area Allies and Partners were
particularly effusive in their remarks, while other Allies
stressed the need for the new Partner nations to press ahead
with defense reforms and meet the other obligations of
Partnership.

UZBEKISTAN IS BACK

3. (SBU) Uzbekistan's chair was also occupied for the first
time in 18 months. Charge Karomidin Gadoev reported that
following the visit to Tashkent of the SecGen's Special
Envoy to Central Asia and the Caucasus Robert Simmons the
month before, Uzbekistan had decided to resume its
cooperation with the Alliance gradually, participating in
committees open to Partner nations, and eventually "resuming
the level of cooperation of April 2005." (Uzbekistan adopted
an "empty chair" policy following NATO criticism of
Tashkent's handling of the events in Andijon in May 2005
that led to hundreds of civilian deaths. Gadoev's reference
to resuming the earlier level of cooperation appears to
indicate that it will resume its Individual Partnership
Action Plan) IPAP) if things go well with NATO. There

was no mention of offering its Termez airfield to support Allied operations in Afghanistan.)

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

14. (SBU) Assistant Secretary General for Defense Policy and Planning John Colston provided the EAPC a review of practical aspects of implementation of NATO Policy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (CTHB). Implementation of the CTBH policy, which was developed under U.S. and Norwegian leadership and approved by Allies and Partners at the 2004 Riga Summit, has proceeded in accordance with U.S. guidance, but continues to be debated in NATO's Political-Military Steering Committee. After another round of discussion, based on EAPC comments and on late revisions requested by Turkey, the implementation report will be submitted to the NAC for approval.

NULAND